

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 10483 121125Z

46

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-07 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 IO-13 /091 W

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R 120936Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 744

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 10483

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, JA, UR

SUBJECT: FONMIN REBUFFS CHINESE ON NORTHERN TERRITORIES ISSUE

REF: TOKYO 10402

1. DURING UPPER HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS CTTE INTERPELLATIONS JULY 9, FONMIN MIYAZAWA DECLARED THAT CHINESE SUPPORT FOR JAPAN IN ITS TERRITORIAL DISPUTE WITH THE SOVIET UNION WAS UNBENEFICIAL. COMMENTING ON A REPORT THAT YET ANOTHER GROUP OF VISITING CHINESE HAD ATTACKED MOSCOW'S STAND, MIYAZAWA SAID HE UNDERSTOOD CHINA'S SYMPATHY BUT DID NOT APPROVE OF PEKING'S USE OF TERM HEGEMONY IN CONNECTION WITH SOVIET OCCUPATION OF NORTHERN TERRITORIES. THE DISPUTE, HE SAID, IS A PURELY BI-LATERAL JAPAN-SOVIET MATTER. CHINESE SUPPORT WOULD BACKFIRE AND PROBABLY TOUGHEN THE SOVIETS' ATTITUDE, THUS AGGRAVATING WHATEVER CHANCE THERE IS FOR AN AMICABLE SETTLEMENT, MIYAZAWA COMMENTED. JAPAN, HE ADDED, WISHED TO STAY OUT OF THE SINO-SOVIET IDEOLOGICAL DISPUTE. FINALLY, HE SAID THE FONOFF HAD ALREADY ASKED PEKING TO

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 10483 121125Z

REFRAIN FROM MAKING ANTI-SOVIET STATEMENTS ON THIS ISSUE.

2. COMMENT: MIYAZAWA'S COMMENTS WERE A RATHER BOLD REBUFF TO THE CHINESE. WHETHER OR NOT THEY WILL DETER PEKING, THEY WILL INEVITABLY RAISE FURTHER DOUBTS IN PEKING ABOUT MIYAZAWA. FONOFF HAS TOLD US PRIVATELY FOR MONTHS THAT THEY FOUND CHINESE COMMENT ON THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES AN EMBARRASSMENT. BY BRINGING THE SINO-SOVIET FACTOR INTO THE PROBLEM, THE CHINESE WOULD MAKE THE RUSSIANS ALL THE MORE OBDURATE AND GUARANTEE A CONSTANT IRRITANT IN SOVIET-JAPANESE RELATIONS. (PROBABLY JUST WHAT PEKING HAS IN MIND). MIYAZAWA APPARENTLY DECIDED A PROPITIOUS MOMENT HAD ARRIVED AND NOW HAS CONFRONTED THE CHINESE PUBLICLY, A NEW WRINKLE IN NORMALIZED SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONS.

3. THE INCIDENT ALSO PROVIDES FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE CLOSE COOPERATION AND COINCIDENCE OF VIEWS BETWEEN THE LDP AND ITS FRIEND AMONG SOCIALISTS, MODERATE WING JSP VICE CHAIRMAN SABURO EDA, WHO TOLD US HE HAD ALSO ASKED THE CHINESE TO DESIST IN THEIR ZEALOUS PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR JAPAN ON THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES ISSUE (REPORTED REFTTEL).
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TOKYO10483
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760267-0948
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760766/aaaacgks.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TOKYO 10402
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FONMIN REBUFFS CHINESE ON NORTHERN TERRITORIES ISSUE
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, CH, JA, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006